

When the administration released its Sudan policy, Secretary Clinton indicated that benchmarks would be applied to Sudan, that progress would be assessed and that “backsliding by any party will be met with credible pressure in the form of disincentives leveraged by our government”

But in the face of national elections that were neither free nor fair, in the face of continued violations of the U.N. arms embargo, in the face of Bashir's failure to cooperate in any way with the International Criminal Court, we've seen no “disincentives” applied.

This is a worst case scenario and guaranteed, if history is to be our guide, to fail.

More than 6 months have passed since the release of the administration's Sudan strategy and implementation has been insufficient at best and altogether absent at worst.

During the campaign, then candidate Obama said regarding Sudan, “Washington must respond to the ongoing genocide and the ongoing failure to implement the CPA with consistency and strong consequences.”

These words ring true today.

But the burden for action, the weight of leadership, now rests with this President and this administration alone.

The stakes could not be higher.

I close with a slight variation on the words of Nicholas Kristof: If President Obama is ever going to find his voice on Sudan, it had better be now.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
May 5, 2010.

Hon. BARACK H. OBAMA,
The President, The White House, Washington
DC

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: “If President Obama is ever going to find his voice on Sudan, it had better be soon.” These were the closing words of New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof two weeks ago. I could not agree more with his assessment of Sudan today. Time is running short. Lives hang in the balance. Real leadership is needed.

Having first travelled to Sudan in 1989, my interest and involvement in this country has spanned the better part of 20 years. I've been there five times, most recently in July 2004 when Senator Sam Brownback and I were the first congressional delegation to go to Darfur.

Tragically, Darfur is hardly an anomaly. We saw the same scorched earth tactics from Khartoum in the brutal 20-year civil war with the South where more than 2 million perished, most of whom were civilians. In September 2001, President Bush appointed former Senator John Danforth as special envoy and his leadership was in fact instrumental in securing, after two and a half years of negotiations, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), thereby bringing about an end to the war. I was at the 2005 signing of this historic accord in Kenya, as was then Secretary of State Colin Powell and Congressman Donald Payne, among others. Hopes were high for a new Sudan. Sadly, what remains of that peace is in jeopardy today. What remains of that hope is quickly fading.

I was part of a bipartisan group in Congress who urged you to appoint a special envoy shortly after you came into office, in the hope of elevating the issue of Sudan. But what was once a successful model for Sudan policy is not having the desired effect today. I am not alone in this belief.

Just last week, six respected NGOs ran compelling ads in The Washington Post and Politico calling for Secretary Clinton and

Ambassador Rice to exercise “personal and sustained leadership on Sudan” in the face of a “stalemate policy” and waning U.S. credibility as a mediator.

In that same vein, today I join that growing chorus of voices in urging you to empower Secretary Clinton and Ambassador Rice to take control of the languishing Sudan policy. They should oversee quarterly deputies' meetings to ensure options for consequences are on the table.

There is a pressing and immediate need for renewed, principled leadership at the highest levels—leadership which, while recognizing the reality of the challenges facing Sudan, is clear-eyed about the history and the record of the internationally indicted war criminal at the helm in Khartoum. We must not forget who we are dealing with in Bashir and his National Congress Party (NCP). In addition to the massive human rights abuses perpetrated by the Sudanese government against its own people, Sudan remains on the State Department's list of state sponsors of terrorism. It is well known that the same people currently in control in Khartoum gave safe haven to Osama bin Laden in the early 1990s.

I believe that this administration's engagement with Sudan to date, under the leadership of General Gratton, and with your apparent blessing, has failed to recognize the true nature of Bashir and the NCP. Any long-time Sudan follower will tell you that Bashir never keeps his promises.

The Washington Post editorial page echoed this sentiment this past weekend saying of Bashir: “He has frequently told Western governments what they wanted to hear, only to reverse himself when their attention drifted or it was time to deliver. . . . the United States should refrain from prematurely recognizing Mr. Bashir's new claim to legitimacy. And it should be ready to respond when he breaks his word.” Note that the word was “when” not “if” he breaks his word. While the hour is late, the administration can still chart a new course.

In addition to recommending that Secretary Clinton and Ambassador Rice take the helm in implementing your administration's Sudan policy, I propose the following policy recommendations:

Move forward with the administration's stated aim of strengthening the capacity of the security sector in the South. A good starting point would be to provide the air defense system that the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) requested and President Bush approved in 2008. This defensive capability would help neutralize Khartoum's major tactical advantage and make peace and stability more likely following the referendum vote.

Do not recognize the outcome of the recent presidential elections. While the elections were a necessary part of the implementation of the CPA and an important step before the referendum, they were inherently flawed and Bashir is attempting to use them to lend an air of legitimacy to his genocidal rule.

Clearly and unequivocally state at the highest levels that the United States will honor the outcome of the referendum and will ensure its implementation.

Begin assisting the South in building support for the outcome of the referendum.

Appoint an ambassador or senior political appointee with the necessary experience in conflict and post-conflict settings to the U.S. consulate in Juba.

Prioritize the need for a cessation of attacks in Darfur, complete restoration of humanitarian aid including “non-essential services,” unfettered access for aid organizations to all vulnerable populations and increased diplomatic attention to a comprehensive peace process including a viable

plan for the safe return of millions of internally displaced persons (IDPs).

When the administration released its Sudan policy last fall, Secretary Clinton indicated that benchmarks would be applied to Sudan and that progress would be assessed “based on verifiable changes in conditions on the ground. Backsliding by any party will be met with credible pressure in the form of disincentives leveraged by our government and our international partners.” But in the face of national elections that were neither free nor fair, in the face of continued violations of the U.N. arms embargo, in the face of Bashir's failure to cooperate in any way with the International Criminal Court, we've seen no “disincentives” or “sticks” applied. This is a worst case scenario and guaranteed, if history is to be our guide, to fail.

Many in the NGO community and in Congress cautiously expressed support for the new policy when it was released, at the same time stressing that a policy on paper is only as effective as its implementation on the ground. More than six months have passed since the release of the strategy and implementation has been insufficient at best and altogether absent at worst.

During the campaign for the presidency, you said, regarding Sudan, “Washington must respond to the ongoing genocide and the ongoing failure to implement the CPA with consistency and strong consequences.” These words ring true still today. Accountability is imperative. But the burden for action, the weight of leadership, now rests with you and with this administration alone. With the referendum in the South quickly approaching, the stakes could not be higher.

The marginalized people of Sudan yearn for your administration to find its voice on Sudan—and to find it now.

This is very important.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY IN EUROPE (V-E) DAY DURING WORLD WAR II

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. NADLER of New York. Madam Speaker, 65 years ago the guns and bombs in Europe fell silent, and President Truman announced victory over Europe to a proud and free world.

I rise today to commemorate the 65th anniversary of this great and very important day, and to recognize the sacrifices and accomplishments of the men and women who so bravely served to defeat hate and aggression.

I join millions of people participating in thousands of events, in New York City, all across the United States, and around the world, in observing and honoring the courage of American service-members, allied soldiers, and homefront workers.

During April 1945, allied forces led by the United States overran Nazi Germany from the west while Russian forces advanced from the east. On April 25, American and Russian troops met at the Elbe River.

I want to recognize, in particular, the contribution of the Russian soldiers, who worked tirelessly alongside the American and British troops to bring down the Nazi regime. Their tremendous heroism and sacrifices will not be forgotten.

After 6 years of war, suffering, and devastation, Nazi Germany was formally defeated on May 8, 1945.

It was a bittersweet victory. Over 400,000 American soldiers died in World War II; 350,000 British soldiers gave their lives; and a staggering 20 million Russian soldiers and civilians perished in the war fighting German aggression on their home soil.

The war also brought about the most horrendous systematic murder which humanity has ever known, the Holocaust.

In memory of all the victims of World War II, it is our duty to raise our voices as one and say to the present and future generations that no one has the right to remain indifferent to anti-Semitism, xenophobia and racial or religious intolerance.

This is an occasion to remember and commemorate. We must remember why the war was fought, remember the victims and heroes, and thank those who fought so hard and sacrificed so much.

V-E Day marked the promise of a peaceful future for a Europe ravaged by unspeakable horror and war. Although freedom did not come to every European nation following the defeat of Nazi Germany, today we stand at the threshold of a very hopeful future based on sovereignty, democracy, freedom and cooperation.

Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to honor those individuals who gave their lives during the liberation of Europe, to thank the veterans of World War II, and to commemorate the defeat of Nazism and Fascism by freedom-loving people.

IN RECOGNITION OF MT. VERNON
HIGH SCHOOL AND CIVILITY
MONTH, 2010

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the staff and students of Mt. Vernon High School for their participation in Civility Month, 2010.

Civil discourse is one of the bedrocks of American society. It is also one of the most difficult to truly achieve. We are a country of diversity; of different religions, ethnicities, and opinions. The rich tapestry created by this diversity is one of the things that make America great and unique in the world.

Perhaps one of the biggest challenges that each of us face as individuals is how we deal with this diversity. Dealing with someone who does not look like us, or speak like us, or has a different opinion can be difficult. But if we stop long enough to listen, we might learn something. And that is the purpose of conversation and discussion. None of us can understand another until we hear what he or she has to say. The underlying principles of Respect, Restraint and Responsibility are Golden Rules and if we do our best to live by them, we will all benefit.

The old phrase "Walk a Mile in His Shoes" is pertinent here. We must continue to strive to understand and accept one another. We must continue to encourage conversation and acceptance while discouraging bullying and tyranny.

I commend The Association of Image Consultants International for elevating this critical issue, as well as The Rotary Club and the Girls Scouts for joining in this effort. But most of all, I must commend and congratulate the staff and student body of Mt. Vernon High School, led by Principal Mrs. Nardos King, for embracing this issue.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending and congratulating the staff and student body of Mt. Vernon High School. Their commitment to civility, respect and responsibility are bright lights in this time of tense debate. We can learn much from these students. And perhaps again, the children shall lead the way.

HONORING MRS. MARY WILLIAMS
WOODARD

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the late Mrs. Mary Williams Woodard, a constituent in my Congressional District and a beloved and dedicated public servant who tirelessly devoted her efforts to the well-being of our nation's most important asset, our children, as a valued educator of the Miami-Dade County community and beyond.

Mrs. Woodard was born to the late Lewis Williams and Lettie Deleog Williams on August 11, 1926 in Jacksonville, Florida. She was the fourth of eight children. Her family settled in DeFuniak Springs in the Florida Panhandle near the Florida-Alabama border. After graduating from Tivoli High School, she furthered her education at Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University and obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Physical Education. In college, she was a cheerleader and a member of the Orchesis Dance Club. She also met her life partner, Dr. Arthur E. Woodward, to whom she would be married for more than 58 years.

She began her professional career once she returned to her hometown and taught at her alma mater, Tivoli High School, which was the only K-12 school in Walton County for African-Americans. Mrs. Woodard taught physical education and English, and was noted for exposing students to various cultural activities. Many of her students became physicians, lawyers, educators, and entrepreneurs. Several students maintained communication with her until her transition. Integration of Florida's public schools and the Florida Teacher Walkout of 1968 forced Mary and her husband to relocate their family to Miami-Dade County.

Once in Miami, she began to work for the Miami-Dade County Public School System at Allapattah Elementary School as a physical education teacher. She later served as a guidance counselor at several schools and retired while at Thomas Jefferson Middle School in 1994.

In an effort to compliment her professional achievements, Mrs. Woodard was involved with various organizations such as the Twin Lakes-North Shore Gardens Homeowners Association; the Gamma Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated; the Florida A&M University National Alumni Association, as well as the Miami-Dade Chapter;

the Rattler "F" Club; and New Birth Baptist Church. She also frequently marched and protested for civil rights for African-Americans and equal treatment of Haitian immigrants.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and all the members of this esteemed legislative body to join me in recognizing the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Mrs. Mary Williams Woodard. I am honored to pay tribute to Mrs. Woodard for her invaluable services and tireless dedication to the South Florida educational community. Her life was a triumph and she was blessed with a loving family who took pleasure in every aspect of her life and her interests. She will be missed by all who knew her, and I appreciate this opportunity to pay tribute to her before the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING WHITNEY GRAVES FOR
HER SERVICE TO TENNESSEE'S
SIXTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the contributions Whitney Graves has made while working in my Washington, DC, office. Whitney has been a helpful addition to the office and a great servant to the residents of Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

On Friday, Whitney will depart my office to pursue her graduate studies full-time in business and international relations. My staff and I are sad to see her leave, but we are proud of her for continuing her education.

I've known Whitney and her family for many years and was glad she joined my staff last year. She brought valuable knowledge about the district to my Washington office as a resident of Gallatin, Tennessee, and through her experience working for the Tennessee state government. During her time in Washington, she has played an integral role in assisting me with constituent service.

As my staff assistant, she managed the front office responsibilities, scheduled Capitol tours and welcomed visitors to my Washington office. After a promotion to legislative correspondent, she managed thousands of constituent inquiries on legislative matters while supervising my office's congressional intern program.

Madam Speaker, my staff and I have enjoyed having Whitney in the office. I have no doubt Whitney can be successful at whatever she chooses to do, and I wish her all the best in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 244 H. Res. 1213—Recognizing the need to improve the participation and performance of America's students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields,